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SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION: POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT

Implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development

Report of the Secretary-General

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. The present report has been prepared in response to General Assembly resolution 50/124, in which the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to report to it at its fifty-first session, through the Economic and Social Council, on the implementation of the resolution.

2. The report examines many of the themes addressed in Assembly resolution 50/124. Section II examines coordination and collaboration by the United Nations system in implementing the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD), 1/ in particular through the Inter-Agency Task Force established for that purpose and its successor the ACC Task Force on Basic Social Services for All. Section III provides a brief overview of progress made at the national level in implementing the Programme of Action. Section IV highlights some important recent developments in the area of South-South cooperation. Section V examines the flow of resources for population assistance from primary sources to recipient countries. Section VI examines the outcomes of the work of the Commission on Population and Development. Finally, Section VII briefly reviews actions taken by the governing body of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) to facilitate the implementation of both the ICPD Programme of Action and Assembly resolution 50/124.

II. COORDINATION AND COLLABORATION BY THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM IN IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ICPD PROGRAMME OF ACTION

3. In keeping with paragraph 18 of General Assembly resolution 50/124, the relevant organs, organizations and programmes of the United Nations system and the specialized agencies have continued and enhanced their cooperation and coordination in the implementation of the Programme of Action, in particular through the Inter-Agency Task Force on Implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action, chaired by the Executive Director of UNFPA. The present section highlights the work of the ICPD Task Force and its successor, the ACC Task Force on Basic Social Services for All, and describes (selectively because of space limitations) some of the activities undertaken by Task Force members in implementing the Programme of Action.

A. Inter-Agency Task Force

4. The Inter-Agency Task Force on the Implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action established six working groups to address key areas for action corresponding to the objectives of the Programme of Action, on (a) basic education, with special attention to gender disparities, led by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO); (b) policy-related issues, led by UNFPA; (c) a common approach to national capacity-building in tracking child and maternal mortality, led by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF); (d) reproductive health, led by the World Health Organization (WHO); (e) women's empowerment, led by the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM); and (f) international migration, led by the

International Labour Organization (ILO). The working groups functioned in a responsive and coordinated manner with a commitment to producing results in a timely fashion. The central focus of the work of the Task Force has been to enhance United Nations system-wide collaboration at the country level. To that end and cognizant of the need for the specialized agencies and all related organizations of the system to take into consideration the specific needs of developing countries, as requested in paragraph 20 of Assembly resolution 50/124, the Task Force developed and issued guidelines for the United Nations resident coordinator system in September 1995, on the occasion of the first anniversary of ICPD.

5. The guidelines, which are also available electronically on the Internet, have been widely disseminated and address the following key areas of the Programme of Action: reproductive health; women's empowerment; basic education with special attention to gender disparities; a common approach to national capacity-building in tracking child and maternal mortality; and international migration. In addition, the Task Force developed and adopted a common advocacy statement, in which it emphasizes that population is an integral component of development strategies; the statement was endorsed by ACC at its second regular session of 1995.

6. The main objective of the guidelines is to provide the field, particularly the resident coordinator system, with guidance on operationalizing the ICPD Programme of Action at the country level. The guidelines will facilitate more integrated planning and coordination of United Nations inputs for achieving ICPD goals within a national development framework, and will help foster closer dialogue and collaboration between the United Nations system, Governments and other development partners, including bilateral agencies, non-governmental organizations and civil society. The guidelines build on arrangements that are already in place, including the country strategy note process; throughout, their underlying concern is to seek ways to foster the enabling environment that is called for in the ICPD Programme of Action.

B. ACC Task Force on Basic Social Services for All

7. In October 1995, ACC established three task forces to galvanize the United Nations system around priority goals emerging from the recent global conferences, and to rationalize and strengthen the system's follow-up mechanisms for delivering coordinated assistance at the country and regional levels. The task forces also provide a useful mechanism for promoting coherent and coordinated action at the country level on other system-wide initiatives, including the United Nations Special Initiative on Africa and the Inter-Agency Committee on Women.

8. The Inter-Agency Task Force was expanded and reconstituted as the ACC Task Force on Basic Social Services for All; chaired by UNFPA. The ACC Task Force on Employment and Sustainable Livelihoods is chaired by the ILO, and the ACC Task Force on an Enabling Environment for Economic and Social Development is chaired by the World Bank. The mandate of the ACC Task Force on Basic Social Services for All encompasses the following areas: (a) population, with an emphasis on reproductive health and family planning services; (b) basic education;

(c) primary health care; (d) drinking water and sanitation; (e) shelter; and (f) social services in post-crisis situations.

9. At its first meeting, on 23 February 1996, the ACC Task Force on Basic Social Services for All agreed to establish two working groups, one on basic education (led by UNESCO) and the other on primary health care (led by WHO and UNICEF), and to continue three of the working groups mentioned in paragraph 4 above, on reproductive health, international migration and a common approach to national capacity-building in tracking child and maternal mortality. Those sectoral working groups will take into account six cross-cutting dimensions: selection/use of indicators; financing and resource mobilization; gender perspective; targeting specific groups, including in post-crisis/emergency situations; policy; and involvement of civil society. In addition, the dimensions of nutrition, the environment and shelter will be taken into consideration, as appropriate.

10. Using the modality of working groups, the ACC Task Force on Basic Social Services for All is in the process of producing the following five end-products: guidelines building on the earlier guidelines for the United Nations resident coordinator system, ensuring that they are developed to include the above-mentioned six cross-cutting dimensions; a wall-chart on social indicators; a publication on lessons learned/best practices in social sector assistance; selection/use of indicators; and a pocket-card on advocacy.

11. Key areas of concern in the ICPD Programme of Action are encompassed by the ACC Task Force on Basic Social Services for All, which, with its strategic focus on poverty eradication, will create a synergy pivotal to achieving the goals of the Programme of Action. ICPD was a watershed event that marked a paradigm shift from a focus on demographic targets to a focus on people-centred development: its Programme of Action emphasizes the numerous linkages between population and development, and focuses on meeting the needs of individual women and men. Poverty eradication, which is the overarching goal of the ACC Task Force on Basic Social Services for All (and indeed of the whole ACC system-wide initiative), is intimately linked to the central ICPD theme of the interrelatedness of population, sustained economic growth and sustainable development. The momentum of ICPD follow-up will be enhanced and strengthened by the synergy generated by the three ACC task forces; in particular, the focus on providing basic social services for all will help foster the enabling environment necessary to achieve the goals of the Programme of Action.

The need for indicators

12. It is difficult to monitor population and development programmes in general and measure progress in achieving the goals of recent United Nations global conferences in the absence of reliable indicators. In particular, there is a strong need for the development of indicators in such areas as gender equality, reproductive health, women's participation, male involvement in reproductive health and family planning, and resource mobilization. In other areas where several indicators exist, there is a need to select appropriate indicators that will allow countries and organizations to adopt a more coherent and unified approach in monitoring progress in achieving conference goals.

13. Recognizing that clear need, all three ACC task forces are making a concerted effort to focus on selecting appropriate indicators for monitoring progress in achieving priority goals of recent United Nations conferences, while ensuring that unnecessary duplication is avoided. The chairs of the three task forces met in July during the substantive session of 1996 of the Economic and Social Council to discuss the issue. It has been agreed that contact will be maintained with other United Nations system partners working in the area of indicators. The ACC Task Force on Basic Social Services for All has accepted UNICEF's offer to make available indicators (in the area of health and education) used in monitoring the World Summit for Children. At the same time, UNESCO, which is the lead agency of the Working Group on Basic Education of the ACC Task Force on Basic Social Services for All, is in the process of finalizing the selection of indicators to monitor progress in achieving conference goals pertaining to basic education, including special attention to gender disparities. Under the aegis of the ACC Task Force, the Population Division of the Department for Economic and Social Information and Policy Analysis of the United Nations Secretariat, in collaboration with UNFPA, is producing a wall-chart on social indicators. The wall-chart will illustrate where countries are and where they need to be in order to reach the goals of conferences pertaining to basic social services. The ACC Task Force is also following up on additional work pertaining to a common data system for tracking maternal, child and infant mortality, which was initiated under the Inter-Agency Task Force on ICPD Implementation.

14. To enable agencies to keep track of the various undertakings in the area of indicators, UNFPA suggested at the July meeting of the ACC Task Force on an Enabling Environment for Economic and Social Development that the Department for Economic and Social Information and Policy Analysis compile and share with all members of the Task Force a list of the various initiatives on indicators that are currently under way. The meeting agreed that that would be very useful, and the Department agreed to provide such a list.

15. The three ACC task forces have also agreed that the Working Group on Indicators set up by the Task Force on an Enabling Environment for Economic and Social Development will also function to serve the needs of the other two task forces, thereby avoiding duplication of effort, while enabling greater coordination in the key area of developing indicators to monitor progress in achieving conference goals.

C. United Nations system follow-up

16. In paragraph 19 of its resolution 50/124 the General Assembly emphasizes the need to maintain the momentum of follow-up activities related to ICPD and its Programme of Action so as to utilize, to the fullest extent possible, existing capacity within the United Nations system in the area of population and development, including the Commission on Population and Development, the Population Division, UNFPA, and other organizations, funds and programmes of the United Nations and the specialized agencies whose continued support and commitment are required for the successful implementation of the full range of activities outlined in the ICPD Programme of Action, and invites them to work

closely in the preparation of reports for the Commission on Population and Development.

17. ICPD provided new impetus to advocacy and programming in such key areas as reproductive rights and reproductive health, and population information, education and communication, and United Nations bodies are adjusting their programmes and activities in line with its Programme of Action. All members of the ACC Task Force on Basic Social Services for All are emphasizing collaboration and coordination with other United Nations bodies, as well as with other development partners, particularly non-governmental organizations. Task Force members had provided information on their activities in the implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action for inclusion in the report of the Inter-Agency Task Force (E/CN.9/1996/4) presented to the Commission on Population and Development at its twenty-ninth session. In addition to the collaborative efforts undertaken in the context of the Inter-Agency Task Force, several Task Force members have intensified their activities in key areas of the Programme of Action, in keeping with their respective mandates.

18. The Economic Commission for Europe (ECE), which served on the Inter-Agency Task Force as focal point for all the regional commissions, has been conducting research on fertility and the family. With funding from UNFPA, ECE has initiated a series of activities leading to the collection and analysis of comparable survey data on fertility and the family in various ECE member States, including 10 countries with economies in transition. Although ECE has only a small demographic research unit working on reproductive health, the area is of special concern in central and eastern Europe, where there is a need for much more research on reproductive health issues, particularly family planning, and on the supervision and supply of services, including examination of the transition from abortion to the use of contraception services. ECE has been collaborating with WHO in that area and plans to intensify its collaboration with other international organizations with expertise in reproductive rights and reproductive health, and in population information, education and communication.

19. The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) organized in November 1995 the first session of the Inter-organization Subcommittee on Population and Development in Asia and the Pacific, aimed at implementing the Bali Declaration on Population and Sustainable Development and the ICPD Programme of Action. In addition, various intercountry research projects and training courses were conducted. Technical assistance was provided in such areas as reproductive health and family planning, the family and the elderly, female migration, demographic analyses and information development. Activities of the Asia-Pacific Population Information Network focused on upgrading members' technical skills in database development, improving population information management and network, and enhancing information dissemination.

20. At the twenty-fifth session of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) in Cartagena, April 1994, it was agreed that the inputs generated by ICPD should be incorporated into the regional plan of action, which was finalized in late 1995 with full participation of the member countries of ECLAC. The plan, in addition to objectives, goals and recommendations for action in the field of population and development, includes

several regional and subregional activities to be undertaken to facilitate the achievements of national objectives. At the twenty-sixth session of ECLAC (San José, April 1996), the Latin American Demographic Centre (CELADE), as technical secretariat of the regional plan of action and the Inter-sessional Ad Hoc Committee on Population and Development, reported on recent sociodemographic trends and developments in Latin America; specific challenges to be addressed in the near future; the institutionalization of population policies; regional and subregional activities carried out in the sphere of the regional plan; and the possibilities of obtaining extrabudgetary funding for several activities included in the plan.

21. At the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), activities undertaken in the implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action have taken a variety of forms. ECA has prepared studies related to the implementation of two population and development frameworks, the Dakar/Ngor Declaration on Population, Family and Sustainable Development and the ICPD Programme of Action; convened an experts/non-governmental organizations workshop on the Dakar/Ngor Declaration and the ICPD Programme of Action; participated in the establishment of the African Population Commission and in subsequent missions undertaken under its auspices by the Joint ECA/Organization of African Unity (OAU)/African Development Bank (ADB) secretariat to assess country experiences of some member States, namely Senegal, South Africa and Zimbabwe, on the implementation of the Dakar/Ngor Declaration and the ICPD Programme of Action; and convened a senior policy seminar on the social impact of the human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (HIV/AIDS) in households and family in Africa, held in Addis Ababa from 2 to 4 October 1995.

22. To harmonize the activities and the resources of the Follow-up Committee on the Implementation of the Dakar/Ngor Declaration and the African Population Commission, the second meeting (scheduled tentatively for the first week in December 1996) of the Follow-up Committee will be organized as a preparatory forum to the Second General Assembly of the African Population Commission. A task force of the joint ECA/OAU/ADB secretariat has been entrusted with the responsibility for coordinating all preparatory activities leading up to the two meetings.

23. Since July 1995, the follow-up to ICPD by the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) has taken two complementary and mutually supporting directions: (a) the implementation of a UNFPA-supported project on population policies in the Arab countries of ESCWA and North Africa regions to assist interested Governments in building national capacity for the formulation of policies matching the ICPD Programme of Action; and (b) the formulation of a project on follow-up to ICPD and the Second Amman Declaration on Population and Development. The project's overall strategy consists of providing an appropriate framework for continued interaction among the various actors (government agencies, non-governmental organizations, international and United Nations bodies) involved in the implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action. The overall strategy encompasses three major components: creating awareness; developing national and regional frameworks to monitor the progress made in the implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action; and establishing national and regional systems to ensure the continuous flow of information on such implementation.

24. The United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), in implementing the ICPD Programme of Action, has integrated issues on population, health, poverty, patterns of production and consumption, empowerment of women and the environment into human settlements development programme activities. All those issues have been fully incorporated into the Habitat Agenda 2/ adopted at the second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) (Istanbul, 3-14 June 1996). The Habitat Women in Human Settlements Development Programme focuses on the empowerment of women by improving their status and making the role of women in human settlements development more effective and visible. The Programme works to ensure that all Habitat programmes, projects and activities include a gender perspective, supports a number of global networks, and has produced, upon request, country-specific outputs, such as videos, manuals and posters. With other partners, Habitat is also collaborating on a statistical programme that involves the collection, collation and analysis of statistical data on large cities (with population over 100,000) with a view to identifying their population and socio-economic attributes and more effective ways of managing them. In addition, Habitat has produced a number of research-based publications on population growth, population distribution and human settlements.

25. In its follow-up to ICPD, UNICEF is closely collaborating with partners in a variety of sectors, with a special focus on girls' education; women's empowerment; primary health care, including reproductive health; and the tracking of progress in reducing child and maternal mortality. UNICEF support for women's health activities emphasizes working with women's organizations at the community level and assisting women's organizations in implementing population information education and communication efforts and in developing financing mechanisms for purchasing health care. UNICEF efforts in adolescent health care seek to build stronger dialogue and partnership among young people, parents, educators, health providers and community leaders on health, including reproductive health. They also seek to help ensure that adolescents have access to the information, skills and services they need to protect and promote their own health and, eventually, the health of their children. UNICEF supports school health programmes that emphasize skills-based health education, including reproductive health education. UNICEF works closely with WHO, UNFPA and non-governmental organizations in strengthening approaches to the health of youth and women.

26. UNDP continues to implement the action plan initiated in 1995 for ICPD follow-up, whose main components include the review of policies and guidelines to bring them in line with the ICPD Programme of Action; training and sensitization in terms of the messages emerging from ICPD; active participation in the ACC Task Force on Basic Social Services for All, its working groups and other ICPD follow-up activities; and joint inter-agency initiatives. UNDP's main role in ICPD follow-up is to help move the ICPD outcome into mainstream policy dialogue and to take into account the development implication of population dynamics. At the country level, UNDP contributes to ICPD follow-up primarily through advocacy and support of poverty eradication and mainstreaming of gender into development programmes and policies. In addition, UNDP has direct involvement in certain key ICPD themes, such as HIV/AIDS, where it has been an active partner in the development of the Joint and Co-sponsored United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS, including in the area of training and human

resources. Many UNDP country offices continue to report active participation in national workshops and conferences on ICPD follow-up, and efforts are being made to use mid-term reviews of country programmes, country strategy notes and round-table meetings as occasions to include population concerns in planning exercises.

27. UNDP is currently involved in supporting education activities in all regions, often in collaboration with other partners (UNESCO, UNICEF, the World Bank and UNFPA) in the sponsoring of education for all. UNDP priorities and activities for youth and adolescents primarily stress youth, education, training and employment issues. Within the area of basic education, a large number of activities give special attention to female basic education, which is prioritized in the ICPD Programme of Action. In addition, UNDP is an active supporter of several non-governmental organizations and non-governmental organizations networks that include the education of females, population education or reproductive health in their activities. Recently, the Joint Consultative Group on Policy (JCGP) Working Subgroup on Training endorsed the UNDP proposal for a joint-agency training initiative to build capacity among United Nations system partners to better assist their national counterparts to integrate population concerns into national macro-policy frameworks; work on that initiative has begun.

28. The World Food Programme (WFP) has clearly recognized the strong complementarity between its policy orientation and the major themes of the ICPD Programme of Action: both aim to enhance the well-being of the poor and both seek economic growth and the just distribution of the benefits of such growth in the context of sustainable development. There is also consistency in the choice of the key target groups: both the ICPD Programme of Action and WFP have a strong focus on the poor and vulnerable sections of the populations, especially women and children. Finally, both emphasize the development of human resources, with particular emphasis on women. WFP supports the implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action in areas that are amenable to food-based interventions. It focuses on the development of human resources through its programmes in the sectors of education, mother and child health and nutrition, and the empowerment of women, and recognizes women as a priority beneficiary group pivotal to any development strategy that seeks to break the vicious circle of population growth, poverty and degradation of resources. The firm set of commitments to women that WFP declared at the Fourth World Conference on Women is helping to achieve greater effectiveness of WFP activities in support of women. In the education sector, WFP has multiple links with the ICPD Programme of Action. Reducing gender disparities in education has been and remains a principal goal of food-assisted projects in the education sector. In addition to primary education for girls, WFP continues to promote technical and vocational training as a means of contributing to women's self-sufficiency and empowerment, and provides assistance to activities in the area of health and nutrition of mothers and children.

29. WHO has a unique role within the United Nations system with respect to advocacy, normative functions, research and technical cooperation in reproductive health. WHO has developed innovative methodologies for countries to identify national and district-level reproductive health needs. In collaboration with other organizations, WHO will develop methodologies for

assessing reproductive health and will formulate indicators (both qualitative and quantitative) for measuring the reproductive health status and behaviour of populations as well as the effectiveness of programmes and interventions. WHO will provide technical support to developing countries and will strengthen their national capacity for formulation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of comprehensive national reproductive health policies and programmes. WHO collaborates with a number of United Nations organizations and non-governmental organizations, particularly in reproductive health and adolescent health programmes.

30. Since ICPD, UNFPA has, with the approval of its Executive Board, oriented its programme focus and operational strategies to three main areas: reproductive health, including family planning and sexual health; population and development strategies; and advocacy. UNFPA support for reproductive health is based on a public-health, pragmatic and participatory approach. UNFPA will support all aspects of family planning at the primary, secondary and tertiary levels. Support for other components of reproductive health will be concentrated at the primary health-care level. Recognizing the need for strengthening referral services for the evaluation and treatment of reproductive health problems that cannot be managed at the primary health-care level, UNFPA will promote the appropriate strengthening of reproductive health services at the secondary and tertiary levels. In order to position itself better to play a lead role in the follow-up to ICPD UNFPA has reviewed and adjusted all its operational guidelines to align them with the recommendations of the ICPD Programme of Action. In 1995, UNFPA also held a series of regional follow-up consultations that yielded valuable insights into the differing needs of various countries and regions. As a result, country programmes are being designed or reoriented to reflect the priorities and commitments emerging from ICPD. Thus, increased emphasis is being placed on the following themes and issues: adopting a reproductive health approach; increasing the role and responsibility of men in reproductive health and family life; expanding reproductive health services and information for youth and adolescents; ensuring women's empowerment and the gender perspective; and expanding partnerships with non-governmental organizations.

31. As one of the first United Nations organizations to use non-governmental organizations for project execution, UNFPA has had a long tradition of collaborating with non-governmental organizations. Following ICPD, new efforts are under way to increase interaction with non-governmental organizations, both for programme implementation and for monitoring and evaluation. To that end, UNFPA established a non-governmental organization advisory committee in 1995. Composed of representatives from international, regional and national non-governmental organizations, the advisory committee advises UNFPA on its proposed policies, programmes and strategies. In addition, such topics as enhanced government-non-governmental organization collaboration and non-governmental organization sustainability have also been explored and discussed by the advisory committee. Other United Nations bodies are also actively seeking to expand their collaboration with non-governmental organizations and the private sector.

32. The ICPD Programme of Action underscored the need for actions to prevent, reduce the spread of and minimize the impact of HIV/AIDS, and called for special

programmes to be devised to provide care and the necessary emotional support to men and women affected by AIDS and to counsel their families and near relations. Six members of the Task Force (UNICEF, UNDP, UNFPA, UNESCO, WHO and the World Bank) are also the co-sponsors of the Joint and Co-sponsored United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS. Recognizing that inter-agency cooperation is vital for ensuring the mobilization of resources and effective implementation of a coordinated programme of activities throughout the United Nations system, the Programme draws upon the experience and strengths of the six co-sponsors and builds on their comparative advantages to develop its strategies and policies, which in turn are incorporated into their programmes and activities. At the country level, the Programme pools the joint action and collective resources of the six co-sponsors, with support provided through the Programme secretariat.

33. Another important area highlighted in the ICPD Programme of Action is the issue of the reproductive health-care needs of migrants and displaced persons. Arising from the recognition that the provision of reproductive health services is as important as providing food, clean water, shelter, sanitation and primary health care in refugee and emergency situations, a new impetus has been given to reproductive health concerns in refugee and emergency situations, including the convening of an inter-agency symposium on reproductive health in refugee situations. Organized by UNHCR and UNFPA in collaboration with UNICEF and WHO, the symposium took place from 28 to 30 June 1995 at Geneva, and was attended by representatives of 50 governmental, non-governmental and private organizations. The symposium identified the main reasons for the lack of a systematic strategy for the provision of comprehensive health care in refugee situations and offered recommendations on how to overcome those limitations. One of the outcomes of the symposium was the development and dissemination of an inter-agency field manual on reproductive health in refugee situations. In conjunction with the above-mentioned symposium, UNHCR and UNFPA signed a memorandum of understanding establishing a framework for collaboration for the benefit of persons in refugee situations. UNHCR and UNFPA will jointly develop strategies and programmes of advocacy for reproductive health information and service needs and for combating sexual violence; develop strategies to promote reproductive health among adolescents and young people; and organize joint assessment, monitoring and evaluation missions relating to reproductive health information and services.

34. The ICPD Programme of Action notes, in paragraph 11.22, that the tremendous potential of print, audiovisual and electronic media, including databases and networks, such as the Global Population Information Network (POPIN), should be harnessed to disseminate technical information and to promote and strengthen understanding of the relationships among population, consumption, production and sustainable development. In addition, in paragraph 7 of its resolution 50/124, the General Assembly calls on all Governments, the United Nations system and other intergovernmental and nongovernmental organizations to widely disseminate the ICPD Programme of Action, including via electronic data networks. Within a week of their release, the guidelines for the United Nations resident coordinator system were placed on POPIN, the global headquarters of which is the Population Division of the United Nations Secretariat. With both global and regional support from UNFPA, POPIN is a decentralized information and communication network for regional, national and non-governmental organization population information activities, including those addressing reproductive health and gender issues. The guidelines can also be accessed on the Internet,

and the ACC Task Force on Basic Social Services for All continues, as appropriate, to electronically disseminate pertinent information that it develops on reproductive rights and reproductive health, population information, education and communication, and other key areas of interest. ICPD News, a quarterly newsletter of UNFPA's internal task force on ICPD implementation, is also available on the Internet; it highlights global, regional and national activities on ICPD follow-up undertaken around the world.

35. In another instance of inter-agency collaboration, the World Bank, WHO and UNFPA, together with an international non-governmental organization, have produced an information card on reproductive health. In succinct form, the card spells out ICPD commitments to reproductive rights and reproductive health, and highlights, inter alia, the goals for the year 2015; special needs; rights and principles; actions; and the importance of working together in implementing the ICPD Programme of Action. The card has been widely distributed and is proving to be a useful information, education and communication tool.

International migration

36. International migration is a key issue with important implications for both developed and developing countries. Migration processes impact and interact with economic growth and sustainable development. More and more countries are becoming involved as senders, receivers, or both simultaneously, of migrants and refugees. Consequently, there has been a surge of interest in international migration on the part of the international community, manifested most recently in chapter X (International migration) of the ICPD Programme of Action; the many references to migrants and refugees contained in the Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development; the attention drawn to women migrants at the Fourth World Conference on Women, General Assembly resolution 49/166 on traffic in women and girls; and the discussion of international migration by the Economic and Social Council during the general segment of its substantive session of 1996.

37. In response to a request of the Commission on Population and Development, the Inter-Agency Task Force on Implementation established the Working Group on International Migration, with the ILO as the lead agency. The Working Group held its first meeting in October 1995, and agreed to produce a guidance note for use by the United Nations resident coordinator system on issues in international migration and development, which was widely distributed in February 1996 and is also available on the Internet, along with the guidelines for the United Nations resident coordinator system. It examines major issues and trends; the root causes of emigration; and protection of documented and undocumented migrants, and refugees. Appendices are included on the involvement of the United Nations and other organizations with international migration and refugee questions; terminology; selected bibliography; data collection; and chapter X of the ICPD Programme of Action. The Working Group on International Migration plans to hold its next meeting in September 1996.

38. The International Organization on Migration (IOM), although it is not a United Nations body, is a member of the Working Group on International Migration and participated in the meeting that led to the preparation of the above-mentioned guidance note on issues in international migration and development.

As a member of the Working Group, IOM is playing a role in the follow-up to the ICPD and a key role in the preparations for the next session of the Commission on Population and Development. IOM also continues to take an active part in the various mechanisms established by the United Nations to deal with humanitarian and development programmes.

39. At its twenty-eighth session, the Commission on Population and Development adopted a topic-oriented and prioritized multi-year work programme. The theme of the Commission's 1997 session is "International migration, with a special emphasis on the linkages between migration and development, and on gender issues and the family".

III. NATIONAL PROGRESS IN IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ICPD PROGRAMME OF ACTION

40. In paragraph 1 of its resolution 50/124, the General Assembly notes the action taken so far by Governments and the international community to implement the ICPD Programme of Action and encourages them to strengthen their efforts in that regard. In paragraph 2 of the same resolution, the Assembly reaffirms that Governments should continue to commit themselves at the highest political level to achieving the goals and objectives of the ICPD Programme of Action, which reflect a new integrated approach to population and development, and should also continue to take a lead in coordinating the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of follow-up actions. The present section of the report will provide a brief overview of national progress in implementation of the Programme of Action, including the role of non-governmental organizations. Over the past year, a number of inquiries have been conducted, including one undertaken by UNFPA in preparing the report of the Secretary-General on the monitoring of population programmes (E/CN.9/1996/3), which was presented to the Commission on Population and Development at its twenty-ninth session).

A. National initiatives

41. Many countries are already reorienting their family planning programmes to correspond with the broader reproductive rights and reproductive health framework of the ICPD Programme of Action. The Governments of many developing countries and countries with economies in transition have taken significant steps in responding to the ICPD call for action in the area of population and development. Clearly, ICPD has served as a catalyst and has helped to crystallize issues. In particular, countries are focusing greater attention on programming in the following key areas: reproductive health, including family planning and sexual health; women's empowerment and gender equity and equality; information and services for youth and adolescents; the role and involvement of men in reproductive health; and the quality of care and services. Several Governments have taken steps to decentralize public health services to lower levels of administration as a means of enlarging community participation, and in many countries activities are under way to strengthen and expand partnerships with non-governmental organizations and the private sector.

42. To broaden family planning information and services to include other reproductive health elements in their programmes, several countries organized workshops and seminars to examine policy issues and programmatic concerns and to identify modalities for implementing a reproductive health framework congruent with their own situation, particularly in view of infrastructure, human and financial constraints. Since ICPD, UNFPA has worked extensively with countries to facilitate and accelerate the transition to a reproductive health approach. It has supported efforts to train medical and paramedical staff in reproductive health; improve infrastructure; to develop medical standards for reproductive health and family planning services; and increase the availability of reproductive health services and information. In such efforts, UNFPA has drawn on WHO technical and norm-setting protocols.

43. The emphasis on a comprehensive reproductive health approach in population programmes has led to increased attention to the quality of care provided to clients. The ICPD Programme of Action stresses the need to improve the quality of care of reproductive health and family-planning programmes as an effective way to address existing unmet demands for reproductive health information and services. Activities undertaken by countries to improve the quality of reproductive health services include developing human resources, including training of medical and/or paramedical staff in reproductive health; improving infrastructure; developing medical protocols for reproductive health and family planning services; and increasing the availability of reproductive health services. Many Governments are also taking steps to address the special needs of adolescents, including their need for information and services in the area of reproductive health and the prevention of sexually transmitted diseases (STDs), including HIV/AIDS.

44. Women's empowerment and their participation in decision-making processes is crucial for the introduction of a reproductive health approach in any country. Although the level of their activity varies from country to country, gender concerns are increasingly being taken into account in programme design and implementation. In a large number of countries, gender training has become a standard component in many projects, and more women are participating in project formulation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation. One of the more visible signs of women's involvement in the planning, formulation and implementation of reproductive health programmes is the rapidly growing number of non-governmental organizations (often headed by women) dealing with reproductive health care, which points to a related result of ICPD, namely that Governments have become increasingly inclined to collaborate with national and/or local non-governmental organizations and other grass-roots or community-based organizations (see also sect. III B below).

45. However, despite encouraging signs of commitment and dedication to implement or strengthen reproductive health programmes, the socio-economic and cultural environment is not always conducive to change. Often, poverty and the lack of infrastructure, resources and trained personnel hamper the abilities of Governments to fully implement the ICPD Programme of Action. To overcome many of those obstacles, countries need assistance from the international community in terms of both human and financial resources.

46. The overall impetus is for the United Nations system to provide a coordinated and collaborative response in meeting the needs of countries. Consultations and the sharing of information and ideas is already under way among United Nations partners and between the United Nations and Governments, through existing mechanisms of the resident coordinator system, such as inter-agency theme groups and task forces. A primary concern in that process is to harmonize the different country strategy frameworks of the various United Nations bodies and fit them within national priorities as set forth in such mechanisms as national development plans and the country strategy note, where they are in place.

47. The country-level theme groups not only address substantive issues, such as HIV/AIDS prevention, women's empowerment and gender issues, and reproductive health, but also focus on strengthening and enhancing national capacity in programme delivery. National capacity-building is a key component of the United Nations resident coordinator system's effort to translate United Nations conference recommendations into concrete action and tangible results. The country strategy note process and country-level theme groups are facilitating and fostering enhanced dialogue with non-governmental organizations, the private sector and civil society.

48. The guidelines for the United Nations resident coordinator system were well received by the field and reports from resident coordinators indicate that they provide a good basis for cooperation within the United Nations system at the country level on such key issues as reproductive health, women's empowerment, basic education, and national capacity-building in tracking child and maternal mortality. The guidelines have also been welcomed for being pragmatic and broad-based in addressing key development issues.

B. Partnership with non-governmental organizations

49. In paragraph 7 of its resolution 50/124, the General Assembly makes a renewed call to, inter alia, maintain and enhance partnership between Governments and non-governmental organizations so as to ensure their continued contributions and cooperation concerning all aspects of population and development. In paragraph 8, the Assembly urges Governments that have not yet done so to establish appropriate national follow-up mechanisms, in partnership with non-governmental organizations, community groups and representatives of the media and the academic community, to seek the support of parliamentarians so as to ensure the full implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action.

50. Traditionally, non-governmental organizations have played a key role in complementing and supplementing the services provided by Governments. In many countries, non-governmental organizations have been central in providing services, including reproductive health and family planning services, to marginalized and socially excluded groups, including the rural and urban poor, women, adolescents and population groups in remote and inaccessible areas. The extent and volume of those services and the level of collaboration between non-governmental organizations and Governments vary from country to country. Nonetheless, the Programme of Action has had a positive impact in expanding and strengthening relationships between Governments and non-governmental

organizations. The evidence indicates that where non-governmental organizations are clearly able to complement the role of Governments in providing services, the results are promising, and plans for further collaborative activities are under way. In the majority of cases, collaborative relationships are forged after a long history of informal and formal contacts between both institutions. Experience also demonstrates that the existence of a network of non-governmental organizations tends to facilitate their collaborative activities with Governments. Collaborative activities are very important in a number of ways, including promoting the joint development of strategies to implement the ICPD Programme of Action, increasing mutual technical assistance in new areas of programme development, and enhancing the joint evaluation and monitoring of progress in the implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action.

51. As a result of the emphasis placed by ICPD on a holistic and comprehensive approach to reproductive health, non-governmental organizations of the traditional family planning type are increasingly broadening their services to include other reproductive health services in their clinics, and their staff are being trained in the implications of the new concept of reproductive health. In particular, following ICPD non-governmental organizations are emphasizing the provision of information and health services to prevent and treat reproductive tract infections and STDs.

52. Although many non-governmental organizations have incorporated new reproductive health components as a consequence of the ICPD Programme of Action, others have stated that they had adopted a comprehensive approach to reproductive health many years prior to ICPD. However, non-governmental organizations point out that ICPD has been instrumental in legitimizing their own reproductive health work programmes and in strengthening the focus on reproductive health.

53. Sustainability has always been an area of key concern to non-governmental organizations. The long-term existence of non-governmental organization programmes is dependent upon their ability to achieve greater self-sufficiency. Some countries have reported that as a result of worsening economic conditions, the services provided by non-governmental organizations have been negatively affected. Due to financial constraints, non-governmental organizations have been unable to reach large segments of society, particularly in rural areas; in other countries, non-governmental organizations have had to shift their focus from low- to middle-income target groups in order to survive. However, in some countries, non-governmental organizations have countered financial limitations by charging fees to those segments of the population that can afford to pay for services and then using that income to provide free services to the poorest segments of society.

54. While a number of impressive initiatives are under way, it is also clear that many countries still face formidable challenges in fully implementing the ICPD Programme of Action. By forging development partnerships with non-governmental organizations, the private sector and civil society, Governments can speed up the task of meeting those challenges.

55. In its resolution 1996/31, the Economic and Social Council recognizes the need to take into account the full diversity and expertise of non-governmental

organizations at the national, subregional, regional and international levels. In so doing, the Council provides a strong impetus for Governments to enhance consultations between the United Nations and non-governmental organizations from all regions and areas of the world. The Council, in its decision 1996/225, also recommended that the General Assembly examine, at its fifty-first session, the question of the participation of non-governmental organizations in all areas of the work of the United Nations, in the light of the experience gained through the arrangements for consultation between non-governmental organizations and the Council.

IV. SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION

56. In paragraph 11 of its resolution 50/124, the General Assembly reiterates the importance of South-South cooperation for the successful implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action, in line with the Programme of Action itself, which established the objective of increasing international financial assistance to direct South-South cooperation and facilitating financing procedures for direct South-South cooperation (para. 14.10 (c)), and accordingly recommends that in devising the appropriate balance between funding sources, more attention be given to South-South cooperation, as well as to new ways of mobilizing private contributions, particularly in partnership with non-governmental organizations, and that the international community urge donor agencies to improve and modify their funding procedures in order to facilitate and give higher priority to supporting direct South-South collaborative arrangements (para. 14.16).

57. In its efforts to help implement that aspect of the Programme of Action, UNFPA is pursuing initiatives on two fronts: providing assistance to Partners in Population and Development, an intergovernmental organization established to promote South-South cooperation in the field of reproductive health; and supporting selected centres of excellence. Activities to promote technical cooperation among developing countries (TCDC) have long been an essential component of UNFPA programmes at the country, regional and international levels. In line with that policy, UNFPA has supported a global programme of training in population and development, which provides post-graduate training at five institutions in developing countries. During 1995, the programme trained 101 middle-level professionals - of whom 34 were women - from 71 developing countries.

A. Partners in Population and Development

58. With the active participation of UNFPA, Partners in Population and Development was launched in Cairo on the occasion of ICPD as an independent intergovernmental organization. The 10 founding partner countries are Bangladesh, Colombia, Egypt, Indonesia, Kenya, Mexico, Morocco, Thailand, Tunisia and Zimbabwe. Representatives of those countries met in Harare in April 1995 at the organization's first Board meeting to approve the 1996 work programme. The primary focus of the work programme is on strengthening the capacity of developing countries for South-South cooperation, the promotion of twinning modalities to facilitate the two-way exchange of experiences, and the development of regional training institutions. Partners in Population and

Development also decided to establish a small secretariat in Dhaka, Bangladesh, to provide substantive and logistical support to Partner countries in carrying out their work programme. A memorandum of understanding has been approved by the Government of Bangladesh to host the secretariat, which is expected to initiate activities in Dhaka in September 1996.

59. UNFPA is clearly associated with this initiative both substantively and administratively. For example, to help Partners in Population and Development implement the initial work programme, UNFPA provides technical support to Partner countries and cooperates with the secretariat. On the administrative side, at the request of Partners in Population and Development and as approved by the UNDP/UNFPA Executive Board in decision 96/06, the personnel of the secretariat are being recruited and assigned as UNFPA project staff. Also at the request of Partners in Population and Development, a UNFPA trust fund has been established for the operation of the secretariat, with contributions amounting to $1.2 million from the Rockefeller Foundation, the World Bank and UNFPA. Funding for the South-South activities of specific Partner countries or other developing countries is to be channelled through other bilateral and multilateral mechanisms, including other UNFPA trust funds, as appropriate.

60. The Board of Partners in Population and Development met for the second time at Mexico City in July 1996, and approved the 1997 work programme and budget. Also approved was the $20,000 annual mandatory contribution from Partner members. In response to the interest shown by a number of observer developing countries, the Partner Executive Committee received a mandate to process applications for membership. Several donor countries and agencies attending the meeting confirmed their interest in considering proposals to fund South-South activities at the field level. Representatives of Partners in Population and Development met officially with the President of Mexico, who confirmed the commitment of his country to South-South initiatives.

B. Centres of excellence for South-South cooperation

61. Two basic criteria have been applied by UNFPA to support selected developing countries as centres of excellence for South-South cooperation in the field of reproductive health: (a) success in the implementation of their national reproductive health programmes, and (b) experience in sharing such success with other developing countries. On the basis of those criteria and as part of the UNFPA intercountry programme for 1996-1999, which was approved by the UNDP/UNFPA Executive Board, UNFPA is funding four interregional projects for such centres of excellence in Indonesia, Mexico, Thailand and Tunisia. Approximately $6 million has been programmed to support activities at those centres to train participants from other developing countries. The four projects have the following characteristics in common:

(a) Training programmes are implemented by national institutions, including national non-governmental organizations, that have been successful in implementing reproductive health policies and programmes;

(b) Training programmes are based on the country's experience rather than on conventional academic teaching. The training modalities are short term and combine theory and practice;

(c) Countries selected to serve as centres of excellence have expressed their commitment to and have put into practice the holistic concept of reproductive health adopted at ICPD. As those countries gradually acquire new areas of strength in implementing that concept, the training content of the centres will be refined and expanded;

(d) Bilateral development agencies are supporting their efforts. The newly approved project in Indonesia, for example, will build upon South-South initiatives that have been supported since 1994 by Japan, Australia and the Netherlands. Moreover, funding from the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and from the European Community is envisaged for the South-South activities of the centre in Mexico.

V. FLOW OF FINANCIAL RESOURCES FOR ASSISTING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ICPD PROGRAMME OF ACTION

62. Despite the encouraging signs of commitment to and progress made in the implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action described above, financial constraints remain one of the chief obstacles to the realization of the goals and objectives of ICPD. Substantial resources are needed to implement the ICPD Programme of Action at the community, national and international levels. It is estimated that the implementation of programmes in the area of reproductive health, including those related to family planning, maternal health and the prevention of STDs, as well as related programmes to collect and analyse population data, will cost $17 billion by the year 2000.

63. The ICPD Programme of Action estimated that approximately two thirds of the projected costs in developing countries would have to come from domestic resources and one third, or $5.7 billion in the year 2000, from the international donor community. However, many countries will not be able to bear two thirds of the costs of their own national population programmes and will require significant external assistance to implement the goals of ICPD. ICPD therefore called on the international community to strive to fulfil the agreed target of 0.7 per cent of gross national product for overall official development assistance (ODA) and to endeavour to increase the share of funding for population and development programmes to achieve the goals and objectives of the ICPD Programme of Action.

64. In paragraph 10 of its resolution 50/124, the Assembly urges all countries to consider their current spending priorities with a view to making additional contributions for the implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action, taking into account the provisions of chapters XIII and XIV thereof and the economic constraints faced by developing countries, in particular the least developed among them, and emphasizes that international cooperation in the field of population and development is essential for the implementation of the recommendations adopted at the Conference. In that context, it calls upon the international community to continue to provide, both bilaterally and

multilaterally, adequate and substantial support and assistance for population and development activities.

65. In paragraph 12 of the same resolution, the Assembly reaffirms that the effective implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action will require an increased commitment of financial resources, both domestically and externally, and calls upon developed countries to complement the national financial efforts of developing countries on population and development and to intensify their efforts to transfer new and additional resources to the developing countries, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the ICPD Programme of Action, in order to ensure that population and development objectives and goals are met.

A. Consultation

66. On 28 February 1996, the Executive Director of UNFPA convened a second consultation on resource mobilization for the implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action. The purpose of the consultation was to exchange ideas on how to generate additional resources for population programmes and to explore ways and means of facilitating the exchange of information among donors and improving collaboration at the country level so as to ensure that effective programmes are fully funded. Representatives of various multilateral and bilateral donor organizations participated in the consultation, as did representatives from the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

67. Participants informally discussed a wide range of issues, including the setting of targets for funding population activities, the recognition of country efforts to increase domestic spending, the involvement of the private sector and the importance of advocacy in sustaining the momentum of resource-mobilization efforts. The discussion on the setting of targets focused primarily on the difficulty of defining what constituted population assistance and how that affected the calculation of the percentage of ODA earmarked for such assistance. Participants stressed the importance of involving the private sector in the field of population and development and welcomed the proposal of the Executive Director to convene a brainstorming session on that topic with business leaders from different regions. Participants also emphasized the importance of programme performance, impact evaluations and effective system-wide collaboration as key factors in sustaining momentum in resource mobilization.

B. Flow of financial resources

68. In paragraph 4 (a) of its resolution 50/124, the General Assembly took note of the proposal of UNFPA to replace its biennial report to the Commission on Population and Development on multilateral population assistance with an annual report on the amount of resources allocated for the implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action at the national and international levels. UNFPA submitted the first such annual report to the Commission at its twenty-ninth session (E/CN.9/1996/6), providing financial data on international resource flows for the year 1993. The report also reviewed the changes in resource priorities towards the implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action that had taken place in selected countries.

69. Subsequently, UNFPA prepared the eighth edition of its Global Population Assistance Report 1994, which provides financial data on international resource flows for the year 1994. The report traces the flow of population assistance from primary sources to recipient countries through bilateral, multilateral and non-governmental channels. The report calculates international population assistance by using two categories of financial reporting: primary funds, which are those funds originating from primary donors, and final expenditures, which are the funds provided to the final recipient, either by a primary donor or by an intermediate donor.

Primary funds

70. According to the Report, primary funds for international population assistance totalled $1,201 million in 1994, an increase of 24 per cent over the 1993 total of $966 million. If loans from development banks are added, the primary funds for population assistance in 1994 totalled $1,637 million, a 25 per cent increase over the 1993 total of $1,310 million. Developed countries are the largest source of primary funds, contributing 81 per cent of the $1,201 million. Private sources contributed just under 10 per cent, and multilateral organizations and agencies contributed almost 9 per cent.

71. In current (1994) dollars, total population assistance grew at an average annual rate of 9 per cent between 1985 and 1994. The average annual growth in constant 1985 dollars during the same period was 5 per cent, increasing from $540 million in 1985 to $873 million in 1994.

72. In 1994, primary funds from 21 developed countries and the European Community totalled $977 million, of which 59 per cent was provided by two countries and approximately 96 per cent was contributed by 11 countries. Only 9 of the 21 donor countries increased their 1994 primary funds over 1993 levels. Of the remaining 12 major donor countries, 7 reported declines in expenditures for population assistance in 1994 from their 1993 contributions.

73. Population assistance from all donor countries constituted 1.65 per cent of ODA in 1994, the highest percentage in the 10 years covered by the Report. However, the proportion of ODA varied widely from donor to donor. For example, of the 21 major donors, 10 earmarked 1 per cent or more of their ODA for population assistance. Of those 10 donors, only 2 earmarked more than 3 per cent of ODA for population assistance (one at 4.7 per cent, the other at 3.6 per cent). Three others were in the 2-per-cent range (2.7 per cent, 2.5 per cent and 2.2 per cent) and 5 ranged from 1 per cent to 1.8 per cent of ODA. The proportion of ODA earmarked for population assistance by the remaining 11 major donors ranged from 0.02 per cent to 0.8 per cent.

Final expenditures

74. A total of 158 countries benefited from international assistance for population activities in 1994. Final expenditures for population assistance rose from $610 million in 1993 to $991 million in 1994, an increase of 62 per cent. Of the total amount spent in 1994, 27 per cent was channelled through bilateral programmes. Multilateral organizations and agencies spent 29 per cent, and international non-governmental organizations spent 44 per cent.

75. Final expenditures for 1994, by region, were as follows: sub-Saharan Africa, $252 million (an increase of 56 per cent over the 1993 level of $162 million); Asia and the Pacific, $338 million (an increase of 104 per cent over the 1993 level of $166 million); Latin America and the Caribbean, $190 million (an increase of 71 per cent over the 1993 level of $111 million); the Middle East and North Africa, $51 million (a decrease of 4 per cent over the 1993 level of $53 million); and Europe, $18 million (an increase of 260 per cent over the 1993 level of $5 million).

Functional categories

76. The bulk of the final expenditures (96 per cent) were distributed for core activities, i.e., those that influence population growth rates and related variables. Only 4 per cent were spent on support activities. Of the core activities, reproductive health (including family planning, which includes contraceptive research and commodities) received 56 per cent of the final expenditures, population education and communication 20 per cent, population policy and population dynamics 16 per cent, and data collection and analysis 8 per cent.

C. 20/20 initiative

77. As a follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development and in keeping with paragraph 10 of General Assembly resolution 50/124, in which the Assembly urges all countries to consider their spending priorities with a view to making additional contributions for the implementation of the Programme of Action, the Governments of Norway and the Netherlands co-sponsored an international meeting on the implementation of the 20/20 initiative. The meeting, which was held at Oslo from 23 to 25 April 1996, involved participants from 22 developing and 16 donor countries, as well as representatives of IMF, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the World Bank, UNDP, UNESCO, UNICEF, WHO and UNFPA.

78. The meeting reaffirmed the importance of the 20/20 initiative as a useful mechanism for mobilizing the resources needed to accelerate action towards providing universal access to basic social services, which were understood under the initiative to comprise basic education and primary health care, including reproductive health and population programmes; nutrition programmes; and safe drinking water and sanitation. It also agreed that the main focus of the initiative should be the effective and efficient delivery of basic social services to poor and vulnerable segments of the populations.

79. The developing and developed countries attending the meeting committed themselves to a dialogue at the country level on the implementation of the initiative. The multilateral organizations expressed their readiness to support developing countries in formulating and implementing social-sector programmes aimed at the poor and in monitoring and analysing budget expenditures on basic social services, their cost-effectiveness and their impact on social indicators.

80. Following the meeting, the executive heads of UNICEF, UNDP and UNFPA sent a joint letter to all their country offices to encourage their creative support

for the initiative. The letter envisaged several practical steps that the country offices could take to encourage or reinforce national commitment to the 20/20 objective of greater support to basic social services. For example, country offices could offer to help interested Governments in preparing basic documentation and statistical information on budgetary and aid allocations to basic social services; reviewing options for budget restructuring; and identifying more cost-efficient delivery mechanisms. They could also explore ways and means, both individually and collectively, to further strengthen advocacy and operational activities in favour of providing universal access to basic social services.

81. The joint letter noted that the ACC Task Force on Basic Social Services for All would take the conclusions of the Oslo meeting into consideration in carrying out its work programme and concluded by soliciting reports from country offices on the progress of the 20/20 initiative in their country of assignment.

VI. COMMISSION ON POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT

82. The Commission on Population and Development is the first tier of the three-tiered system established for monitoring implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action. The Commission, inter alia, has primary responsibility for reviewing the follow-up and implementation of the Programme of Action.

83. The Commission held its twenty-ninth session from 26 February to 1 March 1996. The five-day session was the first since its membership was increased from 27 to 47 by the Economic and Social Council in its decision 1995/320, and the first under the new terms of reference and the topic-oriented, multi-year work programme endorsed by the Council in its resolution 1995/55.

84. The central theme of the twenty-ninth session was "Reproductive rights and reproductive health", in relation to chapter VII of the ICPD Programme of Action. The major substantive report before the Commission was a report by the Secretary-General on world population monitoring (E/CN.9/1996/3), focusing on that theme. The report provided a summary of recent information on a number of topics, such as entry into reproductive life; reproductive behaviour; contraception; abortion; maternal mortality and morbidity; sexually transmitted diseases; HIV/AIDS; reproductive rights; and population information, education and communication. Other reports submitted to the Commission covered the monitoring of population programmes; activities of the Inter-Agency Task Force for the Implementation of the Programme of Action; activities of intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations dealing with reproductive rights and reproductive health; flows of financial resources; and programme implementation in 1995 and the programme of work of the Commission for the biennium 1996-1997.

85. The Commission considered follow-up actions to the recommendations of the Conference, and approved a draft resolution that was subsequently adopted by the Economic and Social Council as its resolution 1996/2, in which the Council seeks to enhance the role of the Commission in monitoring the ICPD Programme of Action through both improved and increased reporting. The Council requests improved annual reporting on financial flows; proposes that a new report covering main

demographic trends, prepared by the Population Division, be submitted to the Commission biennially; encourages the widest possible dissemination of reports on progress in the implementation of the Programme of Action; and, lastly, requests that evidence of further progress in achieving the goals of the ICPD Programme of Action be communicated to the Commission.

86. In reviewing programme implementation in 1995 and examining the work programme for 1996-1997, the Commission adopted resolution 1996/1 on the work programme in the field of population, in which it noted that the work of the Population Division serves the crucial need of the United Nations system and the international community for scientifically sound inputs to analysis, debate, planning and policy in the area of population and development. The Commission fully supported the need to protect the long-term work programme of the Population Division, including both traditional demographic work and the development of innovative approaches to meeting new demands, following the outcomes of ICPD and other recent major United Nations conferences.

87. In preparation for the thirtieth session of the Commission, the Population Division is currently preparing the monitoring report on the state of knowledge in the area of international migration and development. The report will cover the most important substantive issues in the area, including population dynamics, national migration policies with respect to documented and undocumented migrants, refugees and asylum seekers; labour migration; gender perspectives; and international migration and development. The report will follow the outline and substantive issues presented in chapter XII of the ICPD Programme of Action. In addition, the work programme of the Population Division, both with respect to its traditional activities and its new undertakings, is geared towards providing the scientific basis for monitoring the implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action.

VII. IMPLEMENTATION BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE UNITED NATIONS POPULATION FUND

88. The present section highlights two important areas in which the Executive Board of UNDP and UNFPA took decisions that had a direct impact on the programme directions and resource allocations of UNFPA and its implementation of the ICPD Programme of Actio..

89. At its annual session in June 1995, the Executive Board considered a UNFPA report on programme priorities and future directions of UNFPA in the light of ICPD (DP/1995/25), which was the culmination of an intensive process of internal and external reviews of the UNFPA programme. Following extensive discussion of the report, the Board adopted decision 95/15, in which it supported the broad outline of the future programme of assistance of UNFPA, which must be implemented in full accordance with the ICPD Programme of Action, and endorsed the core programme areas of reproductive health, including family planning and sexual health; population and development strategies; and advocacy. The aim of such a selection was to enable UNFPA to sharpen the focus of its programming and capitalize on its comparative advantage.

90. The above-mentioned report also contained a proposal for a new approach for resource allocation based on the goals and objectives of the ICPD Programme of Action, which was subsequently revised at the request of the Executive Board (see DP/FPA/1996/15) and endorsed by the Board in its decision 96/15. The approach is based on a country's level of achievement of ICPD goals, and it recognizes that there is a continuum of needs from countries that have made little progress towards achieving ICPD goals to countries that have already reached or surpassed all of those goals.

91. The new approach pays special attention to low-income countries, least developed countries and Africa, as called for in the Programme of Action and in various General Assembly and Economic and Social Council resolutions. The new approach particularly emphasizes providing support to least developed countries by including all of them in the group of countries that are in greatest need and thus will receive the largest share of UNFPA resources. It recognizes the urgent need for providing temporary assistance to countries with economies in transition, as called for in the ICPD Programme of Action and in paragraph 13 of General Assembly resolution 50/124. It further recognizes the importance of promoting South-South cooperation.

92. By its decision 96/15, the UNFPA Executive Board, inter alia, reaffirmed that in order to achieve the goals of ICPD there is a need for adequate mobilization of resources at the national and international levels as well as of new and additional resources to developing countries from all sources, including multilateral, bilateral and private sources. The Board also decided that the allocation of resources should be based on a comprehensive assessment of the actual needs and requirements of countries, and should take fully into consideration coherent national programmes, plans and strategies on population and development and the need for external resources to complement national financial efforts in the area of population and development.

Notes

1/ Report of the International Conference on Population and Development, Cairo, 5-13 September 1994 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.95.XIII.18), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

2/ Report of the second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements, Istanbul, 3-14 June 1996 (A/CONF.165/14), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.